Deregulation of Prices of Coal

*68. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a 'proposal' for the deregulation of prices of certain categories of coal; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b). Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices, who have taken up a study of coal industry, in their interim policy recommendations have recommended decontrol of prices of coking coal and some grades of non-coking coal. The argument in favour of the proposal is that the decontrol will help the coal companies to fix their price in line with the market conditions and also improve the performance of some of the loss making companies.

Export of Agricultural Produce/ Commodities

*69. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural produce/ commodities that were exported from the country during the year 1993-94;

(b) the rates fetched by such commodities in the International market in comparison to the rates prevailing for such commodities in our own country;

(c) whether Government have framed a comprechensive policy to boost agricultural produce export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The major items of export are spices, deoiled cakes, tobacco, cashewnuts. basmati rice, fruits and vegetables and processed food, etc.

(b) As per export data compiled by DGCI&S for April-Nov. '93, the unit value for some of the items is as under:—

(Rs./Kg.)

1	Basmati Rice	20.22
2	Non-Basmati Rice	8.59
3	HPS Groundnut	17.45
4	Oilcakes	4.65
5	Cashew Kernals	151.56
6	Tobacco Unmanufactured	44.17
7	Tobacco Products	92.96
8	Sesame & Niger Seeds	17.57

Comparable data in respect of the domestic market is not maintained.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir, as already announced in various forums Government accords a high priority to the development of agricultural exports as these exports not only help to generate foreign exchange but also they help to generate incomes and employment in the rural areas. The introduction of unified exchange rate, liberalisation made in the EXIM Policy 1992—97, lowering of import duties on certain capital goods and other inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector have all helped to promote export of agricultural commodities. Special incentives are available for agriculture based Export Oriented Units (EOUs). The Commodity Boards are also assisting the sector by an agressive marketing strategy, participation in the exhibitions abroad, by sponsoring trade delegations and by arranging buyer-seller meets for interaction with the importers. As a result of various steps taken by the Government the performance of this sector has been very satisfactory.